

MIRANDA'S DIARY THE IMAGE BUSINESSWOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

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IMAGE

JANUARY 2012
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IMAGE *Weddings*

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Special supplement inside ...





BALLYFIN, Co Laois

BEST FOR Old-fashioned princess brides looking for the ultimate fairytale setting. Re-opened last summer after an eight-year restoration, and now a member of the Relais & Châteaux group, this country house is big on luxury and the 600-acre estate is exclusively yours when you book your wedding here

WHAT YOU GET Reception rooms with true wow factor, food prepared by head chef Fred Cordonnier, and magnificent gardens. You and your guests can stay in one of the 15 lavishly decorated bedrooms, which feature four-poster canopy beds, fine art and antique furniture

THOSE LITTLE EXTRAS A blessing can be arranged in the house or grounds. Treatment rooms are available for pre-aisle beauty preparations

MAKE SURE TO Have a good think as to which areas would suit your reception best, from drinks on the lawn to the Saloon, complete with grand piano. Dinner can be small and simple for 20 or big and formal for 120; a buffet or even a barbecue can be arranged. The following day, enjoy a late breakfast, roam the grounds and have outdoor activities arranged for your party. Finish off with a picnic, terrace lunch or light supper

BOTTOM LINE It's necessary to book the entire house for two nights at €11,500 per night; this includes accommodation and breakfast for 29, refreshments, snacks before the ceremony, VAT and gratuities. Wedding dinner, from €165 per person, including champagne and canapé reception, gala dinner, half bottle of wine, and champagne toast

CONTACT Mountrath, Portlaoise, Co Laois, 057 875 5866; www.ballyfin.com; www.relaischateaux.com.

